

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 DPW-01 IO-15 AID-20

INRE-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 /162 W

----- 078196

O R 271205Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6022

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

CIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDAO SAIGON

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

COMUSMACTHAI

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

354 TFW KORAT

CHSPECATS BANGKOK

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CDR JCRC NKP

7 ACCS KORAT
432 TFW UDORN
8 TFW UBON
388 TFW KORAT
56 SOW NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 6690

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA
SUBJECT: THE LAO WEEKLY SITREP - SEPTEMBER 27

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TFW, 56 SOW, 388
TFW, 354 TFW AND 8 TFW FOR DO/DI; MACTHAI FOR J-2 AND PAO.

REF: VIENTIANE 6494

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE SECOND WEEK AFTER SIGNING THE
PROTOCOL, BOTH SIDES ARE STILL LAYING GROUND WORK FOR ACTUAL
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN
EXPLORING WITH ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES ACCEPTABLE WAY TO FORM
NEW GOVERNMENT AND MAY SUBMIT AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL TO
ASSEMBLY NEXT WEEK, SO AS TO OBTAIN SOME SORT OF
ACQUIESCENCE WHICH COULD BE BASIS FOR SEEKING SPECIAL MANDATE
FROM KING TO RESHUFFLE CABINET. RLG ANTICIPATES THAT
FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT MAY BE DELAYED UNTIL LATTER PART
OF OCTOBER, BUT EXPECTS THAT JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT
THE AGREEMENT MAY BE ESTABLISHED SOON, AS ARRIVAL OF LPF
PERSONNEL IS AWAITED WITHIN THE WEEK. NORTH VIETNAMESE
NEWS AGENCY IN VIENTIANE DENIED AUTHENTICITY OF PRESS
REPORTS THAT DRV HAD ADMITTED THAT NVA TROOPS ARE PRESENT
IN LAOS. INDIANS AND POLES ARE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT
REACTIVATING AND EXPANDING ICC/LAOS THAN CANADIAN ACTING
COMMISSIONER, WHO IS CONCERNED ABOUT LIMITATIONS ON ICC
ACTIVITIES IMPOSED BY TERMS OF PROTOCOL. SIX CEASEFIRE
VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED DURING THE WEEK. END SUMMARY

1. MOVES TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT

IN SECOND WEEK AFTER SIGNING PROTOCOL, BOTH SIDES ARE
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STILL LAYING GROUND WORK FOR ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF
AGREEMENT.

A) ON RLG SIDE, PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN ACTIVELY
EXPLORING WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES WAYS TO OBSERVE
CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN FORMATION OF NEW PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU). SOUVANNA HAD ORIGINALLY
CONSIDERED PRESENTING AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL TO ASSEMBLY

FOR APPROVAL AND ASKING FOR FULL POWERS TO "RESHUFFLE" CABINET. IN PAST WEEK, SOUVANNA HAS MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH 48 OF 60 DEPUTIES TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. DEPUTIES HAVE GENERALLY REACHED CONSENSUS THAT (1) ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL IS UNNECESSARY, SINCE THESE CONSTITUTE MERELY INTERNAL UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY; AND (2) "SPECIAL POWERS" OUGHT NOT TO BE GIVEN TO PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE SUCH PROCEDURE IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN CONSTITUTION. DEPUTIES WOULD PREFER THAT PERSONS PROPOSED BY VIENTIANE SIDE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN CABINET SHOULD BE APPROVED BY ASSEMBLY, BUT THEY CONCEDE LPF MINISTERS-DESIGNATE, WHO ARE OF LESSER CONCERN, MIGHT MERELY BE INCLUDED ON A LIST SUBMITTED TO ASSEMBLY FOR PROFORMA APPROVAL. LPF, OF COURSE, DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE CURRENT ASSEMBLY AND HAS, IN FACT, ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED ANY MOVE WHICH WOULD GIVE IT ANY COLOR OF LEGITIMACY. PRESS REPORTS, SEPTEMBER 27, CONFIRMED BY RLG MINISTER PHENG PHONGSAVAN, INDICATE THAT PRIME MINISTER IS NOW PLANNING TO SUBMIT AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL TO ASSEMBLY NEXT WEEK, SO THAT IT MIGHT UNDERTAKE REVIEW AND GIVE SOME SORT OF IMPLICIT CONCURRENCE. WITH IMPLIED ASSEMBLY ACQUIESCENCE, PRIME MINISTER THEN MIGHT SEEK SPECIAL MANDATE FROM KING TO RECONSTITUTE CABINET WITH LPF PARTICIPATION. SOUVANNA INTENDS TO VISIT LUANG PRABANG WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 29-30 TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH KING. (COMMENT: IN CURRENT "SPECIAL POWERS" DEBATE, THERE IS NO APPARENT RANCOR ON PART OF PRIME MINISTER OR DEPUTIES, AND, AS INDICATED REFTTEL, SOUVANNA SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND SOME WAY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES TO PROCEED WITH FORMATION PGNU AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO WORK OUT SCENARIO AND PHENG PHONGSAVAN, SEPTEMBER 26, SUGGESTED CURRENT ASSEMBLY SESSION MAY BE EXTENDED AND HE ESTIMATED

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THAT FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT MAY BE DELAYED UNTIL SOME TIME LAST TEN DAYS OF OCTOBER. ONLY KING CAN EXTEND ASSEMBLY SESSION, SOMETHING HE HAS REFUSED TO DO IN THE PAST. END COMMENT)

RLG EXPECTS SWIFTER ACTION IN ESTABLISHING JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA). PHENG HAS TOLD US THAT ROG ANTICIPATES SOVIET AN-QW WILL BE ARRIVING IN VIENTIANE FROM HANOI WITHIN NEXT THREE OR FOUR DAYS WITH 60-80 LPF PERSONNEL FOR COMMISSION. RLG HAS APPARENTLY FOUND LODGING FOR THESE PEOPLE LOCALLY (AS THEY HAVE FOR LPF MEMBERS OF POLITICAL COUNCIL AND FOR LPF CONTINGENT OF JOINT POLICE FORCE).

RLG PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING FOREGOING QUESTIONS
HAVE BEEN VERY VAGUE.

RLG'S NEWLY-NAMED SPOKESMAN LANE PATHAMMAVONG, MEET-
ING LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS FOR THE FIRST TIME ON SEPTEMBER
27, WAS CLOSELY QUESTIONED ON TIMETABLE FOR FORMING PGNU
AND ON ARRIVAL IN VIENTIANE OF PATHET LAO POLICE AND TROOPS. HE
OFFERED NO INFORMATION EXCEPT THAT SOUVANNA IS WORKING
TOWARD EARLY FORMATION OF THE PGNU AND THAT THE REST
DEPENDS ON LPF. LANE SAID THAT RESHUFFLING OF CABINET

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64/50

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 /162 W

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O R 271205Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6023

INFO DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USDAO SAIGON

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC
COMUSMACTHAI
CINCPACFLT
CINCPACAF
CDR USSAG NKP
CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN
388 TFW KORAT
DODSPECREP BANGKOK
DODSPECREP NKP
CHSPECACTS BANGKOK
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7 ACCS KORAT
354 TFW KORAT RTAFB
56 SOW NKP
432 TRW UDORN
CDR JCRC NKP
RUMORUA/8 TFW UBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 6690/2

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4)

TO FORM PGNU REQUIRES ROYAL CONSENT BEFORE IT COULD BE
ENDORSED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

B) ON THE LPF SIDE, THERE IS LITTLE APPARENT
ACTIVITY IN VIENTIANE. SENIOR ADVISOR PHOUMI, WHO LEFT
VIENTIANE SEPTEMBER 20, ARRIVED IN SAM NEUA FIVE DAYS
LATER, APPARENTLY AFTER A SEVERAL-DAY STOPOVER IN HANOI.
LPF SENIOR NEGOTIATOR PHOU SIPRASEUTH LEFT VIENTIANE
SEPTEMBER 27, ALSO ENROUTE TO SAM NEUA VIA HANOI. LPF PERMREP
SOTH PHETRASY, ACCOMPANIED BY 7 UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS, RETURNED
TO VIENTIANE FROM SAM NEUA, SEPT 27 VIA SOVIET AN-2.

2. NORTH VIENTIANESE DENY ADMITTING PRESENCE OF NVA TROOPS
IN LAOS

IN RECENT WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN JOURNALISTS' REPORTS
(THE LATEST BY PETER KEMP, APPEARING IN BANGKOK NATION)
THAT DRV PRESS ATTACHE IN VIENTIANE NGO MINH AND ADMITTED
IN INTERVIEW THAT NVA TROOPS ARE PRESENT IN LAOS AND
WOULD BE WITHDRAWN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE VIENTIANE AGREE-
MENT. IN A STATEMENT DATED SEPTEMBER 21, THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE NEWS AGENCY IN VIENTIANE DENIED THE AUTHENTICITY
OF SUCH REPORTS, SAYING THAT MINH WAS NOT THE DRV PRESS
ATTACHE AND THAT, IN ANY EVENT, HE HAD NEVER MET WITH
MR. KEMP. HOWEVER, KEMP HAS PROOF THAT INTERVIEW DID
INDEED TAKE PLACE.

3. ICC/LAOS

THE TERMS OF THE NEW LAO PROTOCOL HAVE REKINDLED INTEREST
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IN THE ROLE OF THE ICC IN LAOS, BUT HAVE ALSO PROVOKED
DISAGREEMENT AMONG ITS MEMBERS. THE LAO PROTOCOL STATES
THAT THE LAO ICC "WILL CONTINUE ITS OPERATIONS THROUGH
CLOSE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE JOINT COMMISSION
TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA)... AND ...WILL CARRY OUT
ITS DUTIES...WITH TH AGREEMENT OF BOTH PARTIES...", WHICH,
IN ABSENCE OF ANY UNDERSTANDING TO THE CONTRARY, SUGGESTS
THAT SPECIFIC CONCURRENCE WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR EACH
INSPECTION BY THE ICC. THE INDIANS AND POLES ARE NOT
UNDULY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS LIMITATION AND WISH TO MOVE
AHEAD WITH A MODERATELY EXPANDED, REACTIVATED COMMISSION,
COLLABORATING CLOSELY WITH THE JCIA. THIS WOULD IMPLY
LARGELY SYMBOLIC, POLITICAL AND MEDIATORY ROLE FOR THE
ICC, LIMITED BY THE UNANIMITY RULE WITHIN THE JCIA. THE
LOCAL CANADIAN ACTING COMMISSIONER (SIMARD), PERHAPS
INFLUENCED BY HIS GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIENCES IN ICCS/VIETNAM,
HAS DESCRIBED THE PROTOCOL AS "UNWORKABLE" FROM THE ICC
POINT VIEW, AND HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO COOPERATE
WITHIN THE ICC UNTIL GOC HAS COMPLETED STUDY OF LAO
PROTOCOL. ICC HAIRMAN DHAMIJA, SEPTEMBER 24, REQUESTED
USG HELP IN GAINING EXPANDED AND HIGHER-LEVEL CANADIAN
REPRESENTATION ON ICC/LAOS. HE BELIEVES THAT IN LAOS A
SYMBOLIC ICC PRESENCE TO PROVIDE IMPETUS AND MEDIATION
IN POLITICAL MATTERS, COOPERATING WITH THE JCIA WHEN
REQUESTED IN SUPERVISING MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS, WOULD BE
HELPFUL IN REINFORCING AND BUILDING ON A CONSENSUS NOW
EMERGING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT,
TO PARTIALLY MEET CANADIAN OBJECTIONS, CHAIRMEN OF LPF
AND RLG DELEGATIONS TO JCIA WILL - AS SOON AS COMMISSION
IF FORMED - CONVOKE AMBASSADORS OF GENEVA CO-CHAIRMEN AND
FORMALLY REQUEST REACTIVATION OF ICC.

4. SECURITY SITUATION

A. ONE MAJOR AND FIVE MINOR INCIDENTS REPORTED DURING
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 26. ONE MINOR INCIDENT OCCURRED
17 KMS NORTHEAST OF LONG TIENG IN MR-II ON SEPTEMBER 24.
A THRITY-MAN FAR ELEMENT UNDERWENT A TWELVE-ROUND ENEMY
MORTAR ATTACK. IN RETALIATION FOR THIS, RLAF FLEW FOUR
T-28 SORTIES AGAINST THE SUSPECTED ENEMY POSITIONS. RLGAF
SPOKESMAN GAVE EXAGGERATED ACCOUNT OF THIS INCIDENT.
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STORY WAS THEN GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE BY LOCAL MEDIA AND WIRE SERVICES.

B. THE MAJOR INCIDENT, WHICH WAS FRIENDLY-INITIATED, TOOK PLACE 10 KMS EAST OF LUANG PRABANG ON SEPTEMBER 19. FRIENDLY BATTALION, NEWLY RETURNED FROM REFRESHER TRAINING, ENTERED AREA CLAIMED BY BOTH SIDES, BUT IN WHICH FAR HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO EXERCISE CONTROL. AFTER CROSSING TO EAST BANK OF NAM KHAN RIVER (TG-1199), ONE FRIENDLY COMPANY SUSTAINED 3 KIA AND 5 WIA WHEN ATTACKED BY TWO PL COMPANIES. RLG COMPANY QUICKLY WITHDREW.

C. THREE RLG AND ONE U.S. CONTRACTOR AIRCRAFT, FLYING OVER NORTHERN LAOS, RECEIVED ENEMY GROUND FIRE, DAMAGING THREE AIRCRAFT BUT CAUSING NO CASUALTIES. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI06690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973095/aaaaadem.tel
Line Count: 349
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENTIANE 6494
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE LAO WEEKLY SITREP - SEPTEMBER 27 CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TFW, 56 SOW, 388
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